AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in a random distribution pattern on the surface between the ~~carrier~~ clamping plate and the closure plate.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the piezoelectric actuators are present on the surface between the ~~carrier~~ clamping plate and the closure plate as a function of a distribution of force over the surface between the ~~carrier~~ clamping plate and the closure [[the]] plate.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are of a type capable of being differentially triggered according to a desired distribution of force over the surface between the ~~carrier~~ clamping plate and the closure plate.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are of a type capable of being triggered dynamically so as to match a dynamic behavior of the material to be pressed and/or the tools to be clamped.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in a geometric pattern which corresponds to machine requirements.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~A method of operating the~~ apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a subset of piezoelectric means are dual use means capable of piezoelectric

actuation and piezoelectric sensoring ~~during operation, a subset of the piezoelectric actuators are used as piezoelectric sensors~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~method~~ according to claim 10, wherein the dual use piezelectric means function ~~piezoelectric actuators that are employed~~ as piezoelectric sensors~~, are employed~~ only briefly ~~as such sensors~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A pressure-generating apparatus comprising a stationary ~~support~~ carrier plate, and a ~~carrier~~ clamping plate traveling in relation thereto and capable of being fixed in working position, said ~~carrier~~ clamping plate comprising on its side opposite towards the ~~support~~ carrier plate an electromechanically disengageable closure plate, wherein material to be pressed or tools to be clamped are arranged between the clamping ~~closure~~ plate and the carrier ~~support~~ plate, further wherein a force is triggered to disengage the ~~closure~~ clamping plate by a number of piezoelectric actuators located at a position selected from the group consisting of [[on]] the carrier plate and the closure plate and between the closure plate and the clamping plate, and the closure plate is capable of being fixed in at least one piezo displacement intermediate position from which intermediate position the carrier plate can be guided and subsequently fixed with the closure plate being disengaged by an additional piezo displacement.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12 for use in an injection molding machine.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are distributed in a matrix.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the piezoelectric actuators are in the shape of a rectangle.